

France thanks King for Morillon's honour

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a cable from French President François Mitterrand thanking him for his gesture of supporting French General Philippe Morillon's services to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. King Hussein recently sent a telegram to Mr. Mitterrand thanking him for France's role in U.N. operations in Bosnia and asking him to present Jordan's Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order to General Morillon. Mr. Mitterrand said in his cable that the King's gesture would contribute to bolstering friendship relations between the Jordanian and French peoples. King Hussein wrote Mr. Mitterrand that the bestowing of the medal was "in recognition of the courageous personal contribution and principled stand of General Philippe Morillon in upholding the principle that aggression cannot stand in bringing to the world the torment and suffering of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and most vividly in Srebrenica." Gen. Morillon set up headquarters more than two weeks ago in the Muslim town of Srebrenica, under siege by Serb forces, and vowed not to leave until U.N. aid got through to the town's inhabitants.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily newspaper by Jordanian Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بملكية الأردنية [الرأي]

Khartoum denies Algerian charge

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan Sunday said it regrets Algeria's decision to withdraw its ambassador from Khartoum and denied accusations that it was helping Algerian Muslim extremists launching a bloody campaign against the government. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying Khartoum was surprised by Algiers' decision at a time when Sudan is trying to close Arab ranks. "Sudan rejects this accusation and reaffirms its commitment to the policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states," it said. Algiers Friday recalled its ambassador from Sudan and served diplomatic relations with Iran charging that both countries were backing Muslim militants (see page 2). It was the first retaliatory actions by Algeria against Sudan. It follows Egyptian press reports that Sudan has training camps for Muslim extremists from Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt. Algeria has been plagued with attacks by radicals who went underground after the government scrapped elections in January 1992 amid public anger over official corruption and mismanagement.

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No final decision on peace talks at Damascus meeting

Picture will be clear after further Arab-U.S. talks, Abu Jaber reports

Combined agency dispatches

THE FOUR Arab parties involved in peace talks with Israel Sunday appeared to be opting to keep their options open without announcing a definite agreement to attend the next round negotiations with the Jewish state in Washington April 20.

Foreign Ministers of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and the head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were joined by Egyp-

tian Foreign Minister Amr Musa for talks in Damascus on the peace process Sunday.

The talks, which continue Monday, revolved around ways and means to resolve the crisis sparked by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of over 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon and how to come up with a collective response to the U.S.-Russian invitation to similar meetings in Washington.

Therefore we left the Damascus meeting open, in that no decision is taken at the moment,

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A general view of the Damascus meeting Sunday of Arab parties involved in peace talks with Israel (AFP photo)

Yeltsin, Khasbulatov survive congress fury over deal

President, speaker escape attempt to remove both of them, but basic crisis unresolved



Russian President Boris Yeltsin, accompanied by government ministers, talks to people in the street

in a bid to secure popular support in a Kremlin power struggle (AFP photo)

House inquiry panel asked to probe civil service 'violations'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday asked its Investigations Committee to probe allegations of illegal employment practices in ministries and other government departments for possible indictments of officials responsible for what some deputies called crimes against society.

The allegations were included in a report by a special panel that was set up by the House to investigate alleged nepotism in civil-service appointments. The report, which was presented to the House last Sunday, claimed that in the last three years, 1,334 positions at 13 ministries and government departments were filled through illegal procedures.

The House asked the Investigations Committee to provide it

with a report of its findings, but it was not clear how this could be achieved since the House will end its last ordinary session on March 31 and officials have ruled out the convening of an extra-ordinary session.

And even though the majority of the 30 deputies who spoke on the issue Sunday demanded that the perpetrators of the alleged "constitutional violations" be sent to court, the committee will not be able to indict any minister since the indictment of former and present cabinet members has to be endorsed by a two-thirds majority vote in the House.

The decision to refer the case to the Investigations Committee, however, put the lid on a controversial issue that had deputies accusing government ministers and officials as well as each other of favouritism, nepotism and unfairness in awarding work opportu-

nities to job seekers.

Deputies said that the alleged nepotism in government hiring is a "danger that can increase the social threat of poverty and unemployment" and is a practice that makes a mockery of the government's administrative reform programme.

"Unfairness in government appointments" throws strong doubts about the seriousness of the administrative reform programme and constitutes a violation of the Constitution," Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Hamzeh Mansour said. "Nepotism has become the rule and not the exception."

Holding the present cabinet and its predecessors responsible for what Deputy Fawzi Tuameh called "a dangerous phenomenon that has to be stopped," deputies

(Continued on page 5)

Contradictions, bitter rivalry mar PLO-Hamas quest for better ties

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After months of dialogue, the relationship between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) appears to be undergoing a metamorphosis.

While the PLO has consistently backed the U.S.-led peace talks, Hamas has consistently condemned the process as a sell-out and given the impression that it would not accept a Palestinian state or entity in anything less than pre-1948 Palestine.

Hamas has no political or military programme to back it up its hardline stand. On fact talk of its jihad in the larger sense of the word is an unrealistic goal, observers say.

Civil disobedience in the occupied territories which is increasingly taxing lives on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli divide is the maximum "military" assault that the Palestinians are able to launch against Israel, the observers say.

"While the type of anti-occupation activity currently taking place in the occupied territories may be enough to want to make the Israelis withdraw, it is by no means a war on the traditional sense," said a European diplomat who travels to the West Bank frequently.

"The Israelis could declare

war on the Palestinians and effectively kill thousands, and the Palestinians know this," said the diplomat. "Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians favour such an option because if the Israelis did this it would become an endless war and every Palestinian would become a time-bomb for Israel. For the Palestinians it would mean a commitment to never-ending warfare because militarily they can only weaken and intimidate the Israelis but never defeat them, Israel has the weapons after all."

At this stage Hamas and its coalition partners, the 10 mostly left-wing groups based in Damascus, can make life more difficult for all in the occupied territories, but they cannot win a military victory, said the diplomat who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Sources close to Hamas say that the group is fully aware of their military limitations and that a military victory is not the

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. ponders how to push democracy in Mideast

Perhaps the most encouraging model from Washington's point of view is Jordan

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is grappling with the dilemma of how to apply its passion for democracy and human rights to the troubled Middle East.

President Bill Clinton came to power accusing his predecessor, George Bush, of coddling dictators around the world and promising him he would not do the same.

His Secretary of State Warren Christopher has spoken frequently of the importance he attaches to human rights and has nominated former Colorado Senator Tim Wirth to fill a newly created post with global responsibility for advancing democracy and human rights.

Yet when it comes to the Middle East, this policy runs

into a dilemma: Most, if not all of Washington's key Arab allies, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, are non-democratic and are threatened by Islamic fundamentalists hostile both to U.S. interests and Western values.

The policy emerging in the State Department seems to be to try to nudge Arab leaders to take slow, cautious steps in the direction of political and economic reform in the hope of heading off a perceived Islamic threat.

"This administration gives a very high priority to human rights and democratisation and we tell our friends that the word 'stability' is not a static phrase that just means security in the military or police sense," said one senior U.S. official, who did not

want to be named. "Stability in its true sense is also equated with social justice," he said.

"To the extent that these societies can elaborate their policies both towards more political participation and on

NEWS ANALYSIS

privatisation, we think in the long term the issues of social justice can be much more effectively dealt with and true stability can come into being."

But that's easier said than done. Washington has two scary models before its eyes when surveying the region. First is Iran where a pro-American authoritarian leader was swept away by an Islamic government seen here as a threat to U.S. in-

terests throughout the region.

Second is Algeria, where the army stepped in at the last minute to prevent Islamic radicals winning power in an election. Now, the military-backed government is engaged in a tough day-to-day struggle against unrest and mounting economic difficulties with the Islamic "threat" far from extinguished.

The problem with allowing fundamentalists to win office through elections is that once in power there is no certainty they would ever give it up, officials say.

"The principal position of every major fundamentalist thinker is that democracy is opposed to Islam and that Islam is superior," said Martin Kramer, an Israeli Arabist from the Dayan Centre in Tel

Avin.

"Once established in power, they would be duty-bound to preserve the Islamic state. One does not vote for or against God. One obeys Him," he said.

Against this, Graham Fuller of the Rand Corporation argues that current Middle East governments are untenable and Islamic forces are bound to gain power. The United States should prepare for this rather than seeking to avert it.

"Something is going to give fairly soon in many countries in the Middle East. As democracy comes to the region, it will be almost universally destabilising," he said.

"But what is the alternative? We must get through the process," said Mr. Fuller at a recent debate at the

Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

According to this theory, the only way to combat fundamentalism is to bring it into the system, where it will weaken over time.

"Let the Muslim fundamentalist take over the cities. Let people see how they run them. We need the phased introduction of democracy," said Mr. Fuller.

Perhaps the most encouraging model from Washington's viewpoint is in Jordan, where King Hussein has allowed Islamic parties to win a substantial share of seats in a national assembly and is moving towards free party elections.

"It's working. It's difficult but it's a policy of inclusion," said the U.S. official of the Jordanian experiment.

Settler stabbed to death in Gaza

Gaza sealed off

Israel said Sunday it would ban Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip entering the Jewish state for an indefinite period due to rising violence.

The killing, the latest in a wave of Arab-Israeli violence, brought demands by settlers for strong steps against Palestinians in Gaza. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin urged Israelis not to be swayed from the path of peace.

"We have to support the way we are headed, despite the pain of terror," Mr. Rabin told members of his Labour party.

Palestinian workers found Sunday's victim, Yehuda Gawi, 49, stabbed to death in the settlement of Nisanit at the northern end of the Gaza Strip, said Haim Trabelsi, the settlement secretary.

Two workers stabbed Gawi, stoned his gun and fled towards the nearby town of Beit Hanoun, Israel Radio reported. The army confirmed the death but said it had no details.

Gawi was from the town of Ashkelon, just north of the Gaza Strip, the radio said.

(Continued on page 3)

French rightists rout Socialists

PARIS (Agencies) — France's conservative opposition completed a general election rout of the ruling Socialists on Sunday and was set to win an unprecedented 482 of the 577 National Assembly seats, reliable computer forecasts said.

left-wing forces — Socialists, Ecologists, and others — should join together.

Mr. Fabius also urged the new government to respect Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. Foreign Minister Roland Dumas failed to retain his seat.

Opposition leader Jacques Chirac, claiming victory for his centre-right alliance, pledged that he would succeed Mr. Mitterrand as president in 1995, also lost his parliamentary seat.

Official results showed he won 46.5 per cent of the vote in Conflans Sainte Honore west of Paris, compared with 53.5 per cent for conservative Pierre Cardo.

"We've all lost and so have I," Mr. Cardo said on television.

The setback was all the more humiliating because, as prime minister, he had helped Mr. Cardo up the political ladder by appointing him to a national council on urban affairs.

"It (the win) was the voters' choice of the man who worked on the ground," Mr. Cardo said.

Mr. Rocard, 62, talked of the need for an overhaul of the left. "This punishment calls for a renaissance, starting tomorrow morning," he added.

"Don't let's bury it (the Socialist Party) too soon. What's dead

(Continued on page 3)

Letter claiming New York blast said linked to suspects

NEW YORK (R) — Police revealed Sunday that suspects arrested in the World Trade Centre bombing sent a letter saying the attack was to protest American policy in the Middle East and warned 150 suicidal soldiers were poised for more attacks including against "nuclear targets."

The letter was suffered a very severe defeat. The right dominates more or less everything," Mr. Fabius said in a televised statement after learning he had won back his seat in the Paris suburbs.

"It will take time to recover. New ideas, new behaviour what we need is a sea change which concerns everyone on the left," he added.

In a call echoing the "big bang" idea urged by his Socialist rival Michel Rocard, he said different

(Continued on page 5)

to the five suspects being held in connection with the case.

"We've been told that it is authentic," Suzanne Trasoff, a spokeswoman for the New York City police department, told Reuters.

The letter warned more attacks would follow unless the United States ended diplomatic relations with Israel, halted aid to the Jewish state, and did not interfere in the internal affairs of Middle Eastern countries.

The newspaper said government officials had never heard of the group named in the letter, and reported that research had turned up no previous references to any organisation by that name.

The brother of Mahmoud Abu Halima, who police say was the mastermind of the plot, told Reuters late Saturday he was unfamiliar with the organisation named in the letter.

"I never heard of it," Mohamed Abu Halima said in a telephone interview.

The letter, in English, said (exact text): "We are, the Fifth Battalion in the Liberation Army, declare our responsibility for the explosion on the mentioned building. This action was done in response for the American political, economic and military support to Israel, the state of

terrorism and to the rest of the

(Continued on page 3)

Iran slams Algeria's decision to cut ties

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran branded Algeria's cutting of diplomatic ties with Tehran an irrational decision and said Sunday it was designed to divert attention from internal troubles.

"The decision has been taken on the basis of a false and hasty analysis of the internal situation in Algeria," Iran's IRNA news agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi as saying.

The Algerian presidency said Saturday it was breaking ties with Tehran, accusing it of interfering in Algeria's internal affairs and supporting Muslim fundamentalists locked in a bloody struggle against military-backed rulers.

"The Algerian government, in a bid to mislead the public opinion from realities and to cover up unstable circumstances as well as the internal instability stemming from overlooking the votes and views of the people of that country, has always tried to attribute its internal troubles to overseas," Mr. Sarmadi said.

Iran's relations with Algeria soured after military-backed rulers took over in Algeria in January 1992 and cancelled general elections which Muslim militants were poised to win.

Iran denounced the move as a Western-inspired plan to thwart Muslims' progress through the ballot box and condemned the subsequent crackdown on Muslim fundamentalist groups.

But it has repeatedly denied

Algeria's accusing that it interfered in its internal affairs.

Mr. Sarmadi said: "Algerians were a 'Muslim and heroic people' who wanted to tread an independent path. 'The only way to come out of the present difficulties is for the Algerian government to respect the votes and views of the nation,' he said.

Algerians recalled its ambassador to Tehran in January 1992 and reduced links with Iran to a symbolic level last November.

IRNA said Iran's caretaker diplomat at its Algiers embassy was summoned to the Algerian Foreign Ministry Saturday to be informed of the decision to sever diplomatic ties. He and two other embassy staff were given 72 hours to leave, it said.

Algeria is the second African country to cut diplomatic ties with Iran this month.

Zambia severed relations with Iran and Iraq on March 11, accusing them of involvement in an alleged opposition coup attempt. Tehran denied the charge and said Lukasa's decision was inspired by foreign powers.

The Algerian decision to break ties with Iran followed nationwide marches early this week condemning "terrorism" during which marchers chanted "neither Iranian, nor Khartoum — (an) Algerian Algeria."

The presidency, in a statement carried by the official news agency APS, said: "Analysing the international

situation and particularly the interference of certain countries in Algeria's internal affairs, as well as their declared support for terrorism, the high Committee of State (HCE) has decided to break diplomatic relations with Iran and recall our ambassador to Sudan."

Algeria terms as "terrorists" the armed fundamentalist groups blamed for killing more than 600 people in the past year.

State television later quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying: "This decision comes after the multiplication of actions showing the intervention of a socialist Iranian milieu in the internal affairs of Algeria."

The aims of this policy "were not only to destabilise Algeria but the whole of the Muslim world and to undermine the image of Islam in the world," AP quoted him as saying.

Egypt, battling fundamentalist attacks which have hit its key tourist industry, has also accused Tehran of trying to export "Islamic revolution" with Sudan acting as surrogate.

The Algerian ministry spokesman was quoted as saying its ambassador in Khartoum was being recalled "because of the support of this country to terrorist activities."

Algeria recalled its ambassador to Tehran after what the Foreign Ministry, quoted by APS, termed a "virulent press campaign" in

Iran against Algeria.

In November, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "For more than a year, the Islamic Republic of Iran has led a campaign of interference and open hostility against Algeria and its institutions."

Algeria is under an indefinite state of emergency, and its capital and six other areas are under night curfew as security forces battle the fundamentalist groups.

Last week, in what many Algerian commentators saw as a change of tactics, armed men killed a former education minister, a doctor and a senior official.

The attack fuelled the existing outrage over killings of security forces. Last Monday, hundreds of thousands of Algerians streamed into the streets of the capital and towns throughout the country in a powerful rejection of violence and "terrorism."

The presidency, after meeting on Saturday, said: "The HCE considers that the national march of March 22, 1993 expressed the Algerian people's determination to mobilise to eradicate terrorism whose real aim is the destruction of the state and the nation."

The march showed Algerians condemned "terrorism and all those who, by political bidding, tactics, justify and support it," the presidency added. It promised to take "adequate measures to put an end to this phenomenon (terrorism)."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq to attend Arab ministers meeting

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is to attend an Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled for April 18, in Cairo, the ruling Baath Party newspaper reported Sunday. "Iraq will participate in the ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council to be held at Arab foreign ministers level," the newspaper said. Al Thawra, quoting an authorised source, said Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf will head the Iraqi delegation.

Obesity increasing in Kuwait, officials say

KUWAIT (R) — Obesity is on the rise in Kuwait and already affects half the adult population, a Health Ministry official said in remarks published Sunday. Zainab Al Mosa, secretary-general for food affairs at the Ministry of Public Health, said 49 per cent of adult men residents and 59 per cent of adult women residents currently suffered from various stages of overweight, the Arab Times reported. He gave no breakdown by nationality of the incidence among the 1.3 million population, which comprised an estimated 620,000 Kuwaiti citizens and up to 700,000 foreigners and stateless Arabs. The incidence of obesity ranged between 10 to 27 per cent among various categories of students aged from six to 17, the English-language newspaper quoted him as saying. Mr. Mosa gave no comparative figures for previous periods.

Moroccan election delay confirmed

RABAT (R) — King Hassan II announced Saturday that Morocco's parliamentary elections would be postponed eight weeks to June 25. Confirming a delay already reported in the news media, he said the postponement was necessary to allow electoral rolls to be brought up to date, to print documents and ballots, and for other practical reasons. The election, the first parliamentary vote for eight years, had been scheduled on April 30. The king spoke at a traditional ceremony before hundreds of officials after the feast of Eid Al Fitr. He said the elections, which he has promised will be fair and honest, would be "a mirror to reflect the true image of Moroccan citizens."

Morocco plans public works in drought areas

RABAT (R) — King Hassan announced a six billion dirham (\$650 million) public works programme Saturday to provide employment in rural areas of Morocco stricken by two years of drought. The king said funds would be invested in dams to irrigate 250,000 hectares, 3,500 kilometres of roads, forestry and wells. He said the programme would aid 300,000 farmers directly and 1.5 million indirectly. The king spoke after a traditional ceremony in which hundreds of officials pledged their loyalty to the throne after the feast of Eid Al Fitr. Some regions lost 90 per cent of cereal crops in the past two years due to drought, an Interior Ministry official said at the ceremony.

Flares found under seat on Cairo bus

CAIRO (AP) — Police jittery a day after a bomb exploded in downtown Cairo evacuated a bus Sunday after a passenger found flares left under one of the seats. A police official, who requested anonymity, said a passenger found three flares in a plastic bag under a seat while the bus went through Ataba Square, the same location as the latest blast. The source said the bus was immediately cleared and explosive experts defused the flares. On Saturday, a bomb blew up in a civil defence building at Ataba while officers tried to defuse it after a security man found it near a parked police car. The officer killed in the explosion, Major Samir Mansour, 35, was buried Sunday.

U.S. said to protest 'Iraq-Iran oil deal'

White House denies any shift in policy vis-a-vis Saddam

A White House spokesman said meanwhile President Bill Clinton does not believe Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will be able to remain in power and comply fully with all U.N. resolutions involving Iraq.

George Stephanopoulos, the White House communications director, said in a telephone interview with Reuters that there has been no change in Mr. Clinton's approach to dealing with the Iraq leader.

He denied a report in the Washington Post that the administration would issue a statement Monday making clear that Washington was no longer explicitly demanding President Saddam be ousted before it lifted economic sanctions on Iraq.

The spokesman insisted that Mr. Clinton's policy on Iraq was "the one we've had ever since he's been in office."

"Our primary goal is to have Iraq comply fully with all U.N. Security Council resolutions. We don't believe Saddam can comply fully with these resolutions and still remain in power," he said.

Mr. Stephanopoulos dismissed a question on whether the Clinton administration could accept President Saddam's remaining in power if all U.N. resolutions were honoured.

"It's a non-issue," he said. "The practical effect is the same. We don't believe he can comply with all U.N. resolutions and still remain in power."

"There is no indication that he can. He is not in compliance with any of the resolutions right now and there's no reason to believe that he ever will be in compliance," he said. "It's just not going to happen."

Polish, Indian and Turkish diplomats return to Kabul

KABUL (AP) — Poland Saturday sent back its diplomats to find out whether it is safe to return to the battered Afghan capital and reopen the embassy.

Earlier this week, Indian and Turkish diplomats returned to Kabul to gauge the chances for a durable peace in a city divided among the warring rebel groups that replaced communist rule and have been struggling for nearly a year to establish a government.

Pakistan closed its mission in Kabul as outlaw rebels bombarded the city, killing more than 2,500 people, most of them civilians. India and Turkey shut down their embassies in February when rebels again pounded the city and killed more than 1,000 people.

Only five of about 40 embassies — Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — still operate, but only with skeleton staffs.

The rocket and mortar attacks on Kabul and its devastated suburbs stopped Tuesday for Eid Al Fitr.

Despite a ceasefire and power-sharing agreement signed earlier this month in Pakistan by eight of the nine main rebel groups, few believe it will last long. At least a dozen ceasefires have been signed in the past year among the rebel groups fighting for more power.

The rebel chiefs are supposed to meet Monday at an undisclosed location around Kabul to try again to form a cabinet. A three-day meeting last week failed to resolve the most contentious and divisive issues.

But several leaders, including President Burhanuddin Rabbani, have indicated they would not attend the meeting, which will be headed by Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the radical Hezb-e-Islami faction that pounded the capital with thousands of rockets in a bid to unseat the Islamic government.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar have publicly promised to work together to restore peace and stability to the capital. But tensions rose among their followers, who accused each other of trying to assassinate their leaders.

Mr. Hekmatyar's forces contend a mine planted in the road was detonated by remote control just minutes before he passed by.

Mr. Rabbani's forces, meanwhile, contend his convoy was controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar's fighters.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar also remain at odds over the future of Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud. Mr. Rabbani insists Mr. Masoud stays. Mr. Hekmatyar says he must go.

Many Afghans believe that with Mr. Masoud and his troops out of the way, Mr. Hekmatyar could easily take power.

But General Abdul Momin, one of the country's most powerful military officers, vowed the army would not recognise any cabinet that excluded Mr. Masoud.

"There will be no stability in this cabinet and the fighting will start again," Gen. Momin said. "We will not recognise this cabinet."

Police suppressed findings showing Netanyahu charges were baseless

and by bringing charges against his supposed blackmailers.

The media quickly understood the "senior Likud figure" to be former Foreign Minister David Levy. Mr. Netanyahu's main rival in the leadership race, which took place Wednesday and which Mr. Netanyahu easily won.

Senior police figures said Inspector General Yaakov Terner suppressed police findings, available days before the Likud race, showing the charges were groundless, Israel TV said.

Mr. Netanyahu had been the innocent figure in the lies and machination of a private detective with shady past on his payroll, the TV said.

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Two rival factions of the fragmented Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel movement have clashed in Kongor, southern Sudan, one of the groups reportedly Sunday.

A statement from the Nasir faction, which broke away from SPLA founder John Garang's mainstream group last year, said a Garang group led by Dior Ajang attacked rival forces early Saturday.

It said the man had just been released on bail on a previous charge when he seized a gun from a policeman guarding a building went to the police station and opened fire at random.

An Egyptian policeman, carrying the arms he seized, escorts an arrested man suspected of being an extremist in the town of Manafout, 380 kilometres south of Cairo (AFP photo)

sanctions imposed on it," Mr. Mansour said. "The government turned him in because it is afraid of America. It does not want to be accused of harbouring terrorists."

The Egyptian government denied for days that Mr. Abu Halima had entered Egypt, but all along he was in custody.

In explaining why Egypt allowed him to accompany the American agents, the Interior Ministry said Thursday that Mr. Abu Halima is an American and volunteered to return to his adopted homeland.

Such emotions illustrate the sensitivity of Egypt's position. The strongest Arab ally of the United States, Egypt faces a surge in violence by Islamic extremists trying to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and install a religious state.

Mr. Mansour compared the current crisis to that involving Libya, which is shielding two men accused of bombing Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1980. By refusing to surrender the alleged government agents for trial in the United States or Britain, Libya incurred sanctions from the United Nations that have cost billions of dollars.

The Egyptian government doesn't want to enter a problem like Lockerbie and have



JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

11:00 ... Bruxelles - La Legende de l'Historie ... News in French
19:15 Magazine ... News in French
19:30 Magazine ... News in Hebrew
20:30 Step by Step ... News in English
21:10 Merlin Bay ... News in English
22:00 Vietnam

CHURCHES

S. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel: K10740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel: K24590, Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637340
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757
Terrasson Church Tel: K23361
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 62341

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperature, will take place and some clouds will appear at low altitude. Winds will be south-westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and sea rough.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 8/19
Aqaba 15/27
Deserts 6/21
Jordan Valley 13/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 32. Humidity reading: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

Repair: 633101
Abdali Telephone Repair: 661101

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Nasser Ibrahim (—)
Khalilah pharmacy 953418

WEATHER

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Khalilah pharmacy 953418

Queen Alia Hospital 615615

Water Authority 600000

Al Hikma Medical Hospital (01)790790

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-532200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

AQABA: AQABA

Home News

NMC string quartet to compete in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the String Quartet at the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) will take part in the International Chamber Music Competition, in Osaka, Japan next month.

The NMC String Quartet, made up of musicians Aram Zaraysan and Mohammad Ali Abbas on the violin, Samir Jawad on the cello, and Farkad Al Wattar, on the viola, was tape-auditioned by a highly qualified jury in charge of nominating competing ensembles.

On the eve of the international music contest, the quartet will give two public concerts in Beirut, one today at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and another on Wednesday March 31.

The second concert will be performed on the occasion of the inauguration of the newly-

established hall of the Faculty of Medicine at Saint Joseph University.

Both concerts are co-sponsored by NMC, Royal Jordanian and the Lebanese Jeunesse Musicale.

The concert programme includes three pieces: two by the German composer Beethoven and the other by Belgian composer Gosse.

String quartets are rare in the world because they require musicians who can create a balance between professional skills, rapport and maturity.

Established in 1986 through the efforts of Her Majesty Queen Noor, and with funding from the Jordan Society in Washington, D.C., the National Music Conservatory offers young Jordanians the opportunity to develop their musical talents through individual and group instruction on a wide range of musical instruments.



Jordan's National Sports Team for the Handicapped arrives home, Saturday with gold, silver and bronze medals won at the Special Winter Olympics in Austria

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Sarvath attends students theatre festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan will Thursday patronize theatrical performances by Jordanian private schools to be held at the International Baccalaureate School Theatre on the occasion of International Theatre Day. Theatrical groups from the Baccalaureate, Al Manhal Amman National and Al Ahliyah schools will participate in the four-day festival.

Premier returns home from Portugal

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker returned home Sunday after a several-day private visit to Portugal.

Ministry checks transport needs for pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Sunday chaired a meeting for representatives of companies transporting pilgrims to Mecca and Medina and discussed preparations for the coming pilgrimage season to start by the end of May. Participants at the meeting, which was attended by Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel, affirmed that all transport companies have prepared the necessary vehicles to facilitate the pilgrims. Sheikh Tamimi urged the companies to abide by the pilgrimage instructions for the current year and stressed the need to provide comfortable lodgings for Jordanian pilgrims in Mecca and Medina.

Jordan to attend ArabSat meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meetings of the extraordinary session of the Board of Directors of the Arab Space Telecommunications Corporation (Arabsat) due to start in Cairo Saturday. In its three-day greetings, the board will discuss several issues related to the manufacturing of the second generation of Arabsat satellites and means of launching them into orbit in 1995. Jordan will be represented at the meetings by the director general of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) who is expected to leave for Cairo on Friday. The corporation's board has entrusted its executive bureau to sign deals for manufacturing two satellites, one to be launched and the second to be kept in case the first launching attempt fails or when the work load increases.

Tenders approved on Balqa road works

SALT (Petra) — Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatarneh Sunday approved referring several tenders to a number of local contractors who will open and asphalt the Rumeineen-Balqa road, at a total cost of JD 19,200. Salt-Ardha Road at a total cost of JD 18,740 and the Wadi Shu'eb Road at JD 40,432.

Zarqa holds summer vegetable seminar

ZARQA (Petra) — A seminar on summer vegetables was held Sunday in Zarqa city with the participation of several agricultural engineers. The seminar involved a discussion of means of fertilising and irrigating summer vegetables, as well as the uses of insecticides.

Geologists prepare for conferences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Executive Bureau of the Arab Geologists Federation will Monday open a three-day meeting to discuss arrangements for holding the Third Conference on Middle East Geology to convene in Amman next year and a conference on the water policies in the Arab World to be held in Libya.

Jordanian cyclist to head on 5th tour

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian world traveller Ali Etoum is preparing for his fifth bicycle tour. This time he will be touring the United States. Mr. Etoum said he plans to embark on his tour in April when he travels from Amman to Syria and Turkey. He will then board a plane for the U.S. tour. Mr. Etoum, who covered several regions on his cycling tours, has just returned from his fourth journey which included the Arab Gulf states.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Memory of Silk," displaying traditional Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, shawls, carpets, pottery, copperware, from the Wadih Kawar collection — at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Sa'eda Al Bitar Ghannam at Abd El Hamed Shoman Foundation Gallery, 1st Circle, opposite the Iraqi Embassy.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Meditating Land and Man" by plastic artist Hussein Da'sa at Baladna Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- ★ Play entitled "The Death of Thebes" at the Royal Cultural Centre's main theatre at 8 p.m.

SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar on "Teaching Literature" at the British Council at 5:30 p.m.

JMA protests arrest of Baqaa camp doctor

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Ishaq Marqa Sunday voiced the association's protest against the arrest of a radiologist, who operates a clinic in the Baqaa refugee camp, for allegedly causing the death of a 45-year-old woman.

According to the law, Dr. Marqa told the Jordan Times, the doctor's actions should have been reported to the JMA for consultation before making the arrest.

The radiologist, whose name was withheld by the police, was detained for questioning throughout the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday and was kept in detention until Sunday while the police investigated the woman's death.

According to the law, the JMA

should be consulted before any measure can be taken against any doctor registered with the association, said Dr. Marqa.

We have repeatedly asked that the law be respected and in this particular case we approached Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeida who showed prompt response, but regrettably nothing has been done, Dr. Marqa said.

He said the radiologist was detained for questioning throughout the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday and was kept in detention until Sunday while the police investigated the woman's death.

"We demand that a doctor should not be treated like an ordinary criminal, and we demand that the law be respected as to the consultation with the JMA before legal procedures are taken," said Dr. Marqa, adding

that, more often than not, in cases where a patient dies under treatment the doctor is not found responsible for the death.

According to a report in the local press, the doctor had tried to save the woman's life before rushing her to the Jordan University Hospital for further treatment.

But the woman was pronounced dead upon arrival by the hospital.

In this particular case, Dr. Marqa said, the woman might have died of shock or other causes.

But the JMA was kept in the dark and could not offer its opinion to facilitate the procedures to help solve the mystery, he said.

The police have declined to release the name of the doctor but identified the deceased woman as A.A.H.

Road accidents kill 402 in 1992 — PSD

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A total of 402 persons died and 10,839 others were injured in road accidents in Jordan in 1992, according to the Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday.

The number of dead was 23 more than those killed in road accidents in Jordan in 1991, and the number of injured increased by 713 over 1991 figures, the PSD said in a statement to the Jordan Times.

According to PSD figures, last year's road accidents involved 21,723 vehicles against 31,321 vehicles involved in accidents during 1991.

The figures were released as an ad hoc higher committee charged with preparing for the May observance of International Traffic Day and Arab Traffic Week held its first meeting.

Convened at the Royal Automobile Club, the meeting was chaired by Brigadier Khaled Aref, Director of the Licensing Department.

It was decided that the PSD will contact provincial governors to set up committees to work with the higher committee to carry out a public awareness programme against road accidents, Brig. Aref added.

This year the event will be held under the slogan "Children's Safety on the Roads is the Responsibility of All," according to the PSD official.

Brig. Aref said the slogan was carefully chosen because most of the victims of road accidents are children; many of them under the age of 10.

The public awareness programme, he said, aims at helping motorists adopt a more humane behaviour in dealing with children on the roads, especially school children, and teaching children traffic rules through the help of parents and school teachers.

The higher committee, which met Sunday, groups representatives of the Traffic Department, various concerned ministries, government departments, the media and trade unions.

A preliminary meeting was held before the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday during which sub-committees were created to help prepare for the May 4 celebrations.

Population meeting to assess strategies



Also on the agenda are issues pertaining to women and development and family planning and health, the minister added.

He said the Amman conference, organized by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with the Arab League and the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), will be attended by delegates from various Arab states and U.N. agencies.

Issues of concern to the Arab region, such as population growth and composition, as well as programmes to develop the environment and others to deal with domestic migrations, will be tackled at next week's conference, said Dr. Fariz.

Pasture land development is focus of symposium



Arab World is one of the major concerns of the Aleppo-based ICARDA.

Established in 1977, ICARDA is one of 13 centres supported by a consortium of over 40 countries, international and regional organisations and private foundations.

It focuses its research efforts on areas with dry summers and ranges from 200 to 600 mm.

Claim letter

(Continued from page 1)
dictator countries in the region."

The letter warned: "If our demands are not met all of our functional groups in the army will continue to execute our missions against military and civilian targets in and out of the United States. This also will include some potential nuclear targets."

"For your own information, our army has more than one hundred and fifty suicidal soldiers ready to go ahead."

The letter added: "The American people must know that their civilians who got killed are not better than those who are getting killed by the American weapons and support."

The newspaper also ran a photo of the envelope with the report.

The five suspects arrested in connection with the blast are all from the Middle East and are believed to be followers of hard-

line Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman. The Egyptian cleric, who is facing deportation, preaches violence against the Egyptian government from his base in Jersey City.

The men also have ties to Al Sayid Nosair, who is in a New York prison in connection with the fatal shooting of extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane. At least three of them attended Mr. Nosair's 1991 trial and were photographed at rallies for him.

Ibrahim Al Gabrawny, who is charged in connection with the bombing but not accused of taking part, is Mr. Nosair's cousin.

Another defendant, Muhammad Salameh, used Mr. Gabrawny's home address when he carried the bomb to the basement garage where it exploded.

The evidence connecting the suspects to the letter was "inconclusive and it's not speculation," the New York Times quoted the senior investigator as saying.

Industry Minister Dominique Strauss Kahn said Mr. Rocard's defeat was just part of a trend and should not be viewed as a personal attack on him. "I don't think this would affect his capacity to lead the revival of the left," said.

Socialists routed

(Continued from page 1)

tonight is a certain way of practising politics," he said.

"The left is going to have to find out again how to manage politics, find the people on the ground again, the ordinary everyday people."

The defeat deprived Mr. Rocard of national exposure and severely damaged his presidential ambitions.

But Mr. Rocard said it was the right moment to consider his presidential bid. "I'm still a fighting, militant politician and that's not going to change," he said.

Industry Minister Dominique Strauss Kahn said Mr. Rocard's defeat was just part of a trend and should not be viewed as a personal attack on him. "I don't think this would affect his capacity to lead the revival of the left," said.



David Wheaton

Wheaton saves U.S. from whitewash

MELBOURNE (AP) — Rookie David Wheaton beat Wally Masur in straight sets Sunday, saving the United States from its worst Davis Cup tennis defeat in 20 years.

Wheaton downed Masur 6-4, 7-5 in the second of the reverse singles, but Australia still ousted the defending cup champion 4-1 in their first-round match at Kooyong.

Mark Woodforde won the first of Sunday's singles when he beat Brad Gilbert 5-7, 6-1, 6-4. Both reverse singles were reduced to best of three sets.

Woodforde won all three of his matches and teamed with Todd Woodbridge to beat Richey Reneberg and Jim Grabb in Saturday's decisive doubles.

The United States sent an under-strength Davis Cup team down under and it paid the penalty. Captain Tom Gorman is now left wondering whether he may pay the penalty of losing the job he had held for eight years.

The top-seeded Americans went into the contest without big guns Jim Courier, Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and John McEnroe, who would like to replace Gorman as U.S. Davis Cup coach.

Gorman, however, defended his under-manned team.

"The group of guys we had here were fabulous," he said.

Wheaton said he had been determined the United States would not suffer its first 5-0 Davis Cup loss since it fell by that margin to Australia in the 1973 final in Cleveland, Ohio.

"It's nice, certainly, to win the last match — but they won the war," said Wheaton, who was making his cup debut. "I didn't care if the match was over. I was just going to go out and try as hard as I've ever tried."

The Americans were the first defending champions in 10 years to lose in the first round. The United States beat Switzerland 3-1 in the 1992 final in Fort Worth, Texas, in December.

The Australians now face Italy in the second round in Florence July 16-18, while the United States faces a promotion-relegation match against a team yet to be decided.

"I think we've got to a good chance to advancing," Fraser said.

"We're a very good, competitive Davis Cup nation. Our guys are on a high and can see their chances of beating a country which hasn't had a lot of success in recent years in Davis Cup."

Fraser, who Saturday accused Gorman of underestimating the Australians, also repeated criticism of the U.S. captain for being unable to persuade any of the top Americans to play down under.

"I was disappointed at the American team that was sent down," Fraser said. "I think the competition deserves better."

Fraser said Gorman had been an absolutely great cup captain" but that McEnroe deserved to be considered for the job.

"John McEnroe has been the greatest contributor to American Davis Cup play in recent years," Fraser said.

"I have the greatest respect and admiration for McEnroe. He would be a superb Davis Cup captain."

Woodforde put aside a night of celebrations to beat Gilbert in exactly two hours, serving an ace to clinch the victory.

"We had chances in every match," Gilbert said. "I felt like the whole team tried hard. We lost, but we lost with dignity."

The Americans also were the last defending champions to lose in the first round. The United States lost 3-2 to Argentina in Buenos Aires in 1983 after winning the cup in 1982.

FRANCE BOOK PASSAGE TO INDIA: France booked a Davis Cup passage to India Sunday after Arnaud Boetsch wrapped up a 4-1 first round win over Austria.

Boetsch defeated rookie Gilbert Schaller 6-4 6-2 win in the final 'head' rubber after Horst Skoff had reduced France's unbeatable 3-0 lead to 3-1 with a surprise 6-3 3-6 6-1 win over Guy Forget.

France, the 1991 Davis Cup champions, will now meet India who completed a 3-2 triumph over last year's finalists Switzerland in Calcutta Sunday.

OLKHOVSKY SAVES RUSSIAN PRIDE: Andrei Olkhovsky salvaged some Russian pride by winning a hard fought singles duel with Germany's Carsten Steeb Sunday as the Germans completed a 4-1 Davis Cup victory.

Olkovsky, having lost the first set 6-4, looked boomed in the second when Steeb had two match points on the Russian's serve.

But he pulled back to win the set in a tiebreak and take the third in similar fashion to win 4-6 6-7 7-6.

Earlier, 19-year-old Yevgeny Kafelnikov fought gallantly on his Davis Cup debut but was easily overpowered by Michael Stich in just over an hour.

The former Wimbledon champion outclassed his opponent to win 6-3 6-4.

HAARHUIS PULLS OFF DRAMATIC VICTORY OVER COSTA: Paul Haarhuis fought back from two sets down to secure a thrilling five set victory over Carlos Costa Sunday which kept the Netherlands alive in their Davis Cup clash with Spain.

Haarhuis, ranked 50th in the world, survived two match points on the way to a fine victory, beating Spanish number one Costa 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
Tanner Media Services Inc.

THE LEAST OF EVILS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
+ Q 5
Q 3
Q J 8 7 5 2
+ A J 9

WEST EAST
+ K 9 + 6 4

A K 10 8 4 9 7 6 2

K 10 3 9 6

+ 10 6 2 + Q 8 7 4 3

SOUTH
+ A 10 6 7 3 2

J 5

J 4

+ K 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 + 2 3 Pass

4 + Pass Pass Pass

Contract is likely to be the same. At first glance, it might seem that a winning finesse in any suit outside

of hearts is needed, but the lie of the cards presents the defenders with quite a problem.

West led the king of hearts and continued with the ace. At this point, rather early in the game, West was trapped in an endplay. The apparently safe club shift would have been fatal—declarer could insert the nine and, if it was covered by the ten, would still have a club finesse in reserve. Since declarer was marked by the bidding with both pointed-suit aces, it looked as if any return would hand declarer a trick and the contract.

Goren found the only shift to give his side a chance—he led the nine of trumps! Declarer called for the queen from dummy, which held the trick. However, declarer's problems were not yet over. West leading away from the king of spades, or did East have the monarch? After agonized thought, declarer elected to continue with a trump to the ten. In with the king, Goren could now exit safely in hearts, and the defenders eventually collected a diamond trick for down one.

The auction probably would not be repeated today, although the fi-

nal contract is likely to be the same. At first glance, it might seem that a winning finesse in any suit outside of hearts is needed, but the lie of the cards presents the defenders with quite a problem.

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DAVIS CUP

Jordan relegated to Group 3 as Malaysia win 4-1

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Malaysia Sunday managed to complete a 4-1 victory over Jordan in their Asia/Oceania Zone Group 2 playoff after they won both reverse singles in the final day of competition.

With this result, Malaysia secured its place in Group 2 while Jordan will be relegated to Group 3 in 1994.

Malaysia was leading 2-1 after Saturday's doubles match, and Jordan had to win both matches to avoid relegation. However, everything seemed to be going wrong for Jordan Sunday, as the Malaysian's agile top seed, Razman Ramachandran, defeated Jordan's No. 1 Hani Al Ali 6-0, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 6-3 to seal his team's win. Later on, Malaysia's Terrence Chia came back from a set down to clinch victory with a 2-6, 7-6 (7-4), 7-5 victory over Jordan's No. 2 Imad Abu Hamda.

The results of the Jordanian team, who despite their loss fought it out down to the last point, proved beyond doubt what the players have always stressed—the lack of friendly matches and year-round competitions and training are essential to maintain a competitive form on the Asian level.

Attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, in addition to over 100 tennis fans, the matches proved to be battles of nerves and stamina.

In the first match, Ramachandran had no trouble winning the first set 6-0. However, that was not the case in the following three sets.

After the players tied at 2-2 in the second set, Ali managed to break his opponent's serve and won the next game to lead 4-2. The Malaysian then won the following two games to tie at 4-4. Both players then lost serve with Ali committing a



Hani Al Ali



Imad Abu Hamda

series of double faults, and providing his opponent with easy shots that enabled him to take a 6-5 lead.

After Ali held serve, the set demanded a tiebreaker which Ali won 7-3 to take the second set 7-6.

In the third set, Ramachandran lost serve as at 2-2. However, he won the following three games to lead 5-2 before Ali won two games of his own by deserting the baseline and attacking the net. Nevertheless, the Malaysian was determined not to let the set slip away, and made Ali's task more difficult by winning the set 6-4.

Ramachandran, who made his older opponent run throughout the court, and took advantage of his weaker serve, again took a 3-1 lead in the third set. Ali, on the other

hand, tried to hang on and won two games but eventually conceded the set 6-3 as Malaysia secured a 3-1 win.

In the second match of the day, Jordan's Abu Hamda let his match against Chia slip out of his hands just as he had lost his first match against Ramachandran 7-6, 6-4, 7-6.

Abu Hamda took a commanding 3-0 and then a 5-2 lead before he led 40-0 and won the first set 6-2.

In the second set, Abu Hamda's powerful serves and passing shots gave Chia a hard time, however, Abu Hamda seemed to lose concentration after he was leading 4-3, as Chia deprived his opponent of the chance to take a 5-3 lead by breaking his serve and holding his to lead 5-4.

Both players then held serve at this crucial point in the three-set match as the set demanded a tiebreaker which Chia won 7-4 to take the second set 7-6.

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JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1993

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 29, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Gemini Moon goes Void of Course at 6:39 p.m. Pacific Time as it trines Saturn provides us with your opportunities to keep things orderly and practical as we work to unravel difficult problems that involve close partners..

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You have enough chores and activities to keep you busy this day and whatever can be improved by putting your efforts and attention on them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18)

You have some arrangements to make so that your special aptitude can be better performed in the future and made more usable and marketable.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 18)

The tasks you need to do need to be organised better or you can lose a great deal of time on non-essential and miss out on the important.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Think in terms of your personal appearance and how it can be improved at the barber shop or beauty salon of your choice.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

It is a day when you need to exercise special self-control at your residence for little annoyances can put you in a mood to act in an adverse manner.

FISCHES: (February 20 to March 19)

You can have a day when you want to get off to new interests and see where they can fit into your scheme of things for the future.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I thought I was supposed to serve it frozen. It's iceberg lettuce."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, so that the four ordinary words will fit together as shown.

ILFOO

YADIL

BLABED

TENOPT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

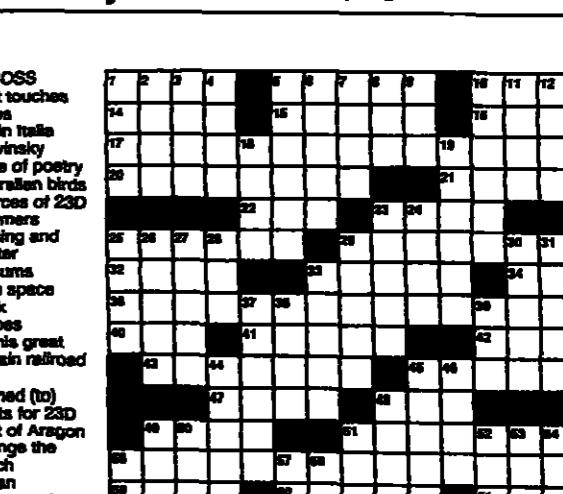
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: GAWKY LOVER TROUGH INFORM

Answer: What a hard-working electrician does—LIGHT WORK

THE Daily Crossword

by Hugh M. Cleveland



ACROSS

1 Light touches

5 Defense

14 City in India

15 Muse of poetry

16 Australian birds

17 Sources of 220

20 Informer

21 Hunting and hunting

Truce holds in snowy Bosnia

Izetbegovic gives Serbs 10-15 days

SARAJEVO (AP) — Snow apparently helped a ceasefire take hold across war-ravaged Bosnia Sunday as U.N. officials made a fresh attempt to get aid through to the desperate eastern enclave of Srebrenica.

The ceasefire agreed upon for noon (1000 GMT) across Bosnia-Herzegovina followed two of the quietest days of the year-old war, slightly raising hopes it might stick, unlike previous truces.

More than 130,000 people have been killed or are missing in the war, and about 2 million have been displaced from their homes, according to government figures.

Just five minutes before the truce, a spate of shelling near the presidency building in downtown Sarajevo killed three people and badly injured five, Bosnian Radio said.

Seven shells hit the airport in the northeastern city of Tuzla just after noon, damaging two helicopters, said British Maj. Martin Waters of the local U.N. peacekeeping force.

The U.N. command in Kisiljak, just outside Sarajevo, otherwise reported no ceasefire violations.

tions by mid-afternoon, Belgrade Radio also said all was quiet.

Bad weather may have helped halt the fighting. Snowfall slowed midday Sunday in Sarajevo after 60 hours without pause. Much of Bosnia was three feet deep in snow.

The cold worsened conditions in Srebrenica, where tens of thousands of people are trapped, many without shelter, food or warm clothing.

Louis Gentile, a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) field officer in Srebrenica, told colleagues in Sarajevo that many people were on the verge of dying and thousands needed hospitalisation.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, returning from U.N. peace talks in New York where he reluctantly signed an international peace plan, said he did so because he saw no alternative.

The plan "is indeed a very bad one, but other plans are even worse," he told reporters in Zagreb, Croatia.

"But he said he would withdraw his signature if the Bosnian Serbs, the only holdouts, did not agree

to the plan in 10 to 15 days. The Bosnian Serbs are to debate their stance at a parliament session later this week.

The military commanders of the warring Serb, Muslim and Croat factions are due to meet only on April 6 to discuss demilitarisation if the ceasefire holds until then.

Under the peace plan, tens of thousands of peacekeeping soldiers would be needed to monitor the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 largely autonomous provinces.

Mr. Izetbegovic, who met U.S. Vice President Al Gore in Washington, said America would impose "unprecedented isolation" on Serbia if the Bosnian Serbs do not sign.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is widely seen as the main instigator of the war that erupted after Bosnia's Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Yugoslavia last March.

Bosnia's Serbs, armed and supplied from Serbia, revolted and now hold 70 per cent of the territory. The peace plan they reject would give them just 43 per

cent.

With Serbia's economy already reeling under international sanctions imposed last May, Mr. Milosevic now appears eager to play peacemaker.

He arranged talks Friday between U.N. commanders and Bosnian Serb Commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, resulting in Sunday's ceasefire.

Hopes for the truce had dimmed Saturday when the Bosnian Serbs broke Gen. Mladic's promise of safe passage for a convoy of food and medicine for Srebrenica led by French Gen. Philippe Morillon, U.N. commander for Bosnia.

That convoy left Belgrade Sunday. One truck crashed en route because of bad weather, and the convoy reached the Bosnian-Serbian border only in the afternoon, UNHCR officials said.

Gen. Morillon has been based in Srebrenica for almost 2½ weeks, shuttling in and out for talks to try and save the town from a Serb onslaught. He was in Pale, the Bosnian Serbs' headquarters, Sunday, U.N. officials said.



LI REELECTED: Premier Li Peng (right) is congratulated by new Chinese President Jiang Zemin (left) after Mr. Li was named to a second

five-year term Saturday. As expected, National People's Congress overwhelmingly approved Mr. Li's nomination (AFP photo)

Pretoria 'considers future' of homelands

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's government is considering a plan to end the "independence" of three black homelands and bring them back under the rule of Pretoria, a Johannesburg newspaper said

Steward told Reuters: "The Sunday Times story is based completely on unfounded speculation."

Establishment of 10 homelands for blacks was a keystone of racial segregation policies during 40 years of apartheid rule.

The homelands of Transkei, Ciskei, Venda and Bophuthatswana, are nominally independent but recognised only by Pretoria.

The Sunday Times said the plan involving the takeover of the administration of Transkei, Ciskei and Venda would be put to a multi-party conference opening in Johannesburg Thursday to negotiate South Africa's transition to non-racial democracy.

His statements, in which he also warned he would use military force to keep South African security units out of his territory, have enraged Mr. De Klerk.

Gen. Holomisa, responding to the article in the Transkei Capital Umtata, said any plan to end the homeland's independence would mean "the end of the road" for the National Party government.

Government spokesman David

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